

What is claimed is:

1. A radial component for a wrist prosthesis comprising:  
a stem configured for engagement within the radius bone;  
a platform attached to said stem;  
an insert defining an articulating surface for mating with an articulating element of a metacarpal wrist component; and  
a mating feature between said insert and said platform to permit engagement of said insert to said platform and removal therefrom without removing said platform from said stem and without removing said stem from the radius.
2. The radial component according to claim 1, wherein said mating feature includes mating snap-fit elements defined in said platform and said insert.
3. The radial component according to claim 2, wherein said mating snap-fit elements includes a female snap-fit element defined in said platform and a male snap-fit element defined in said insert.
4. The radial component according to claim 3, wherein:  
said platform defines a recess with an opening sized to receive said insert therein and an undercut defined around at least a portion of said opening; and  
said insert includes at least one flexible tab configured to engage said undercut within said opening.
5. The radial component according to claim 4, wherein said insert includes two flexible tabs at opposite ends of said insert.
6. The radial component according to claim 4, wherein each of said flexible tabs includes a wedge surface configured to deflect each of said two

flexible tabs as the wedge surface contacts said platform when said platform is introduced into said recess.

7. The radial component according to claim 4, wherein said insert includes a body, said body defining a slot adjacent said at least one flexible tab.

8. The radial component according to claim 1, wherein said insert includes means for engagement by an insertion tool.

9. The radial component according to claim 8, wherein said means for engagement includes a pair of recesses defined on opposite ends of said insert.

10. The radial component according to claim 9, wherein said platform defines a pair of slots corresponding to said pair of recesses for access to said recesses when said insert is engaged to said platform.

11. The radial component according to claim 3, wherein:  
said insert defines an inner flange around at least a portion of said insert;  
and  
said platform defines a recess with an opening sized to receive said insert therein and includes at least one flexible tab configured to engage said inner flange when said insert is within said recess.

12. The radial component according to claim 1, wherein said mating feature includes:  
a first slot extending through said insert;  
a second slot extending through said platform, said first and second slots opening toward each other when said insert is engaged to said platform;  
an opening defined in said platform in communication with said second slot and aligned with said first slot when said insert is engaged to said platform;  
and

a pin configured to alternatively extend through said second slot and through said opening and said first slot.

13. The radial component according to claim 12, wherein said first slot and said second slot are angled relative to each other.

14. The radial component according to claim 1, wherein said mating feature includes:

an opening defined in said platform;

a recess defined in said insert and arranged to align with said opening when said insert is engaged to said platform; and

a locking member pivotably disposed in said opening and configured engage said recess when said locking member is in a locking position and to disengage said recess when said locking member is not in said locking position.

15. The radial component according to claim 14, wherein said locking member is eccentrically mounted within said opening and includes a cam surface configured for engaging said recess.

16. The radial component according to claim 15, wherein said locking member includes an arm extending from said cam surface, said arm manipulated to pivot said locking member.

17. The radial component according to claim 16, wherein said platform defines an indentation for receiving said arm when said locking member is in said locking position.

18. A method for implanting a radial component of a wrist prosthesis, comprising:

implanting a platform in the radius bone;

engaging an insert to the platform when the platform is implanted in the radius bone, the insert defining a bearing surface for mating with an articulating element of a metacarpal wrist component.

19. The method for implanting a radial component according to claim 18, comprising the further steps of:

while the platform is implanted in the radius bone, removing the insert from the platform; and  
engaging another insert to the platform.

20. A method for implanting a radial component of a wrist prosthesis, comprising:

implanting a platform in the radius bone;  
engaging an insert to the platform, the insert defining a bearing surface for mating with an articulating element of a metacarpal wrist component;  
while the platform is implanted in the radius bone, removing the insert from the platform; and  
engaging another insert to the platform.